

d.) Remarks

Claim 1 has been amended in order to recite the present invention with the specificity required by statute as well for better idiomatic usage and greater conformity with acceptance U.S. practice. Additionally, claims 16 and 27 are amended simply in order to properly depend from claim 1, and the Title of the Invention has been amended in conformity with the Notice of Publication of Application.

The subject matter of the amendment may be found in the specification as filed, *inter alia*, at page 15, lines 3-8.¹ Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

The Examiner has objected to the specification for the various formal reasons noted at page 3-4 of the Office Action. In response, each of the Examiner's noted concerns has been addressed by the foregoing amendment. Of course, if any further deficiencies are noted, they will be promptly attended to. The Examiner's detailed review is gratefully appreciated.

Claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Bantli (U.S. Patent No. 5,621,571), in view of Janovec (U.S. Patent No. 6,004,422). Claims 14 and 15 are rejected as being obvious over Bantli and Janovec, in further view of Ghaem (U.S. Patent No. 5,381,137).

The Examiner's bases of rejection are set forth at pages 4-7 of the Office Action, especially in the paragraph bridging specification pages 4 and 5. Therein, Bantli is said to teach a retroreflective display device with a printed information display layer, a

¹ "Both of said radio frequency identification integrated circuit or circuits and communication antenna or antennas are provided between those layers constituting the present invention or inside of said layers, and power supply connector for supplying power from an external source or an electromagnetic coupling structure through a dielectric for conveying electronic signals are not necessary."

retroreflective sheeting, an RFID unit and an antenna network. Bantli does not teach either surface or back protective layers, but this deficiency is said to be met by Janovec.

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As the Examiner is aware, the pending claims now explicitly recite a radio frequency identification integrated circuit, which is connected with antenna either directly or through a jumper, but which is explicitly not connected to any external communication device.

However, the integrated retroreflective electronic display apparatus of Bantli provides an electromagnetic communication antenna that is connected with external communication modules via coaxial connector 174. See Figures 8, 11 and 12, and the related discussion, for instance, from column 7, line 61 to column 8, line 22.

That is to say, Bantli teaches an apparatus connected to an external communication device.

Bantli therefore teaches away from the present invention, whether or not taken with Janovec or Ghaem.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that all of the Examiner's concerns are now overcome and the claims are now in allowable condition. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of this application is earnestly solicited.

Claims 1-36 remain presented for continued prosecution, with rejoinder of withdrawn claims 16-36, under generic claim 1, being respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

/Lawrence S. Perry/
Lawrence S. Perry
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 31,865

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

LSP\ac

NY_Main 612719_1